



Children & Family News

October 2004

N.D. Dept. of Human Services' Children & Family Services Division Update

Child Care Loans Available

Child care loans are now available for licensed family child care providers and licensed child care centers through *First Children's Finance of North Dakota*.

Created to support the business of child care, the loan program is funded through the Development Corporation for Children (DCC), a Minnesota nonprofit organization.

"Finding financing for start up and existing programs in the child care field is, at best, challenging. This loan program will help strengthen valuable child care services in our communities," said Corinne Bennett, administrator of Early Childhood Services and Child Care Resource and Referral.

Bennett said mini loans, family child care loans, and child care/early education center loans are available ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 for home providers and up to \$75,000 for child care centers. To qualify, providers must be licensed and must serve children from households eligible to receive child care assistance. Providers apply for loans through Child Care Resource and Referral.

Since 1991, DCC has provided over \$3 million in loans to providers in Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas.

Head Start hosts fire safety training

Over 300 early childhood professionals and fire safety personnel from across the state are expected to participate in the *Play Safe! Be Safe!* fire safety training on October 13. The event is a precursor to the Region 8 Head Start and Early Head Start Professional Development Institute and features Robert Cole, Ph.D., President of Fireproof Children. The free workshop will reach participants at 12 Interactive Video Network sites in North Dakota and has been organized by the Head Start State Collaboration Office with funding from BIC Corporation.

Participants will receive award-winning curriculum kits, and will learn why children play with fire, as well as strategies to help preschool children protect themselves from injury or death by fire.

"I am pleased to be able to bring the training to North Dakota," said Head Start State Collaboration Director Linda Rorman.

Licensed child care providers and foster parents will receive credit toward in-service training requirements. Continuing education units are also available.

Dr. Bruce Perry Coming to Region 8 Training Institute

North Dakota is hosting the Region 8 Head Start and Early Head Start Professional Development Institute October 14-16 in Bismarck. The annual training is expected to draw over 800 participants from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

Bismarck native and nationally acclaimed child development expert, Bruce Perry, Ph.D., is one of the featured speakers. He will discuss the role of community in raising children.

Other speakers include Ron Hendron, the National Head Start Association President, whose address is titled, "Keeping the focus on children – the future of Head Start." Larry Byrd, Ph.D., a University of North Dakota expert on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect will lead training on FAS and FAE.

Workshop tracks will focus on learning and literacy, health topics, strengthening families, historical trauma in Native America, parenting, involving fathers, and more are scheduled. See details at: <http://www.ndheadstart.com/training.htm>.

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